THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Establishment of more National Schools of Drama

3738. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of National Schools of Drama located in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether Government has any proposal to establish more such centres in the country specially in Tamil Nadu in the near future;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the locations identified for establishing the same; and

(d) by when the above centres would be set up?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) There is only one National School of Drama in the country which is situated in New Delhi.

(b) and (c) On the basis of the recommendations of the Broad Based Committee of the National School of Drama, opening of 5 Regional Schools has been proposed during XIth plan as under:—

(i) upgradation of the existing Regional Resource Centre of NSD at Bangalore into a full fledged regional School; (ii) Kolkata; (iii) Jammu & Kashmir; (iv) Maharashtra/Goa; and (v) Regional Traning Centre in the North East. There is no proposal to set up any such Centre in Tamil Nadu.

(d) It is proposed to operationalise these centers during the XIth Plan period.

Pending culture projects

†3739. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various schemes/programmes recommended/submitted by State Governments remain pending before the Central Government for years without any reason;

(b) if not, the details of guidelines in this regard;

(c) this details of schemes submitted by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh to promote, preserve, expand and encourage the culture and are lying pending before the Central Government; and

(d) by when these schemes are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Facelift of Taj Mahal

3740. MS. MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is proposed to give a facelift to the world class monument, the Taj Mahal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the peripheral area to the fort would also be given facelift to facilitate comfortable and easy approach to the monuments;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what is the action plan of the Centre to give similar facelift to the world-renowned monuments in Orissa to boost tourism in the State?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Conservation and preservation in work of protected monuments including World Heritage Sites is a continuous process and is taken up depending upon the need of the monument and availability of resources. Cleaning of the marble surfaces of the Taj Mahal by use of clay pack method has been taken up.

(c) and (d) The development of peripheral area of the Taj Mahal is the responsibility of local authorities. For improvement of approach to the monument, ITDC has taken up a project for Revitalization and Visitor Management for Taj Mahal Vicinity Area to be implemented by the CPWD.

(e) Conservation, preservation and environmental development work of the monuments is attended to as per the annual conservation programme. The monuments are in good state of preservation. The total expenditure on conservation of monuments in Orissa, including the Sun Temple, Konark (World Heritage Site) and major monuments in Puri and Bhubaneswar in the last financial year (2007-08) is Rs. 278.29 lakhs.

Effects of inflation on people living Below Poverty Line

†3741. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inflation is on the rise in the country and prices of goods used by common man have increased 15 to 20 per cent alongwith rise in inflation during last one year;

(b) whether such people whose annual income is very close to Below Poverty Line (BPL) have not come Below Poverty Line (BPL) as a result of this; and

(c) if so, the percentage of people affected by this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The WPI based average annual inflation for all commodities and for 30 essential commodities in 2007-08 was 4.5 per cent and 2.2 per cent respectively. The thirty 'essential' commodities include 16 primary articles, 12 manufactured products and 2 items from the fuel group, which have a weight of 17.63 per cent in the WPI and form a significant part of the consumption basket of common man. Out of these 30 essential commodities, only 4 commodities recorded year-on-year inflation of more than 15 per cent as indicated in the Statement (*See* below).

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.